



Basil W. Woods, Jr. Chapter  
Trout Unlimited

# Troutlines

www.concordtu.org

FEBRUARY 2016

**Chapter Meeting**  
Basil W. Woods Jr.  
**Next Chapter Meeting**  
February 18, 2016  
New start 6:00 PM  
**Jessie and Rich Tichko**  
**Trout Fishing in New Zealand**



### Programs on the 2015-2016 Agenda

**Warner River  
Progress and Beyond**

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**The Annual Basil Woods Jr. Conservation Banquet**  
**Gala Evening March 12, 2016**  
Grappone Center, Concord  
Food, Fishing Gear, Ephemera, Raffles

We have provisioned the food and spirits and are loading up the auction table and raffles. Look for your tickets in the mail in early February. Get a table for you, your spouse and all your buddies. There are gifts from the fish gods for all .e.g. beautiful Poul Jorgensen designed and tied Sir Conrad. Its been a mild winter so far but open water is still scarce so plan to come stoke your imagination for spring fishing and experience the comradery that goes with our sport.

TU exec and long time Concord resident Keith Curley will help us see where all of the effort goes as he shares recent New England and east coast conservation success stories; a welcome upbeat note.

Perhaps you can be a donor. This evening is a major funding opportunity for Basil Woods and we appreciate auction donations that can contribute proceeds for our conservation efforts. So if you have fishing or outdoor items or maybe a rental of your vacation cabin that you would like to pass on to others through our auction please contact Ken Welch at 603-228-0614.

We appreciate whatever you can do.

### February 18 Chapter Meeting

#### *New Zealand Fly Fishing Odyssey*

Fly anglers Rich and Jessie Tichko have been fortunate enough to fly fish some of the world's best waters. Last March found them on the South Island of New Zealand, pursuing large rainbow and brown trout. The evening talk will take you on a quick overview of the land of Hobbits and Big Fish!

Rich is a retired fisheries biologist from NHF&G, an avid hunter and fly fisher. Jessie, recently retired is a volunteer instructor for the NH Lets Go Fishing program and is on the committee for NH Becoming an Outdoor Woman (NHBOW) program. Several years ago Jessie began tying her own flies!"

### Jack Noon

#### *Atlantic Salmon Restoration in Victorian New Hampshire*



Jack Noon regional historian, author and committed conservationist graced a packed room of interested conservationist and anglers with an excellent but sad story of the demise of Atlantic Salmon in the Pemigewasset Merrimack river watershed.

Mr. Noon wove a tale of the fall of the inland forest and marine ecosystems whose hallmarks included the deep, damp nurturing old growth forest and an unfettered marine ecosystem that sup-

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## Presidential Commentary — Alex Hicks



It's February, it should be cold, but it's not. Ask the folks at the Black Ice hockey tournament in Concord, or at the Great Meredith Rotary Fishing Derby. Black Ice was fun, but slushy at best. The fishing derby has been pushed off 'till the 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> of February. I went snowboarding today with

the kiddo's from the school – mashed potatoes at best. It was 40 at the summit at Loon Mountain and later this week it's going to rain cats and dogs. I'm not sure that winter has really landed yet. That being said, I passed a bob house on Hoyt Rod Marsh and it was on top of the ice – not bobbing. I also spoke with a teacher that was excited about her first brook trout through the ice in Andover, so there's at least a little action. I'm sure that the hardy and patient have been out in some of the streams, too. If you've been out, we'd love to hear a fishing report.

In all fairness, spring isn't that far away. I've been fortunate enough to see a few of our school's TIC trout "hatch" this week. I'll bet they're all out of their eggs by the time you've read this. I love when the eggs that the folks at the NHF&G hatchery give the schools start to pop into sack fry. The students get excited, too. For my school, they're already planning their trip to the river to release them and their week at the lake to finish up their lessons on what makes a healthy watershed. As a teacher, I can't say enough good things about what our chapter of Trout Unlimited and New Hampshire Fish and Game does for us (and many, many other schools). Please recognize that there are many schools that our chapter supports. That means that there are hundreds –if not thousands- of students that your support helps to create an authentic learning experience with the Trout in the Classroom program.

This is also the time of year that I get to think about two of our great late-winter/ spring chapter activities. The fly tying classes are just about to start. If you haven't signed up yet, you should really let Jim know. Classes start on the 19<sup>th</sup>. If you're interested, shoot us an email at [concordTU@Yahooo.com](mailto:concordTU@Yahooo.com).

I also get to mention the banquet! You've saved the date, right? March 12<sup>th</sup> is the date – you should be at Grappone Conference Center (with checkbook in hand) to help us raise a little money for conservation and outreach projects. The food is great, the company is great, and they'll plenty of auction items up for bid. I'll be looking for one of the fishing trips. Last year Brad let me pull a few mackerel over the rail before we headed back in for the stripers. He did a great job getting the boat on the fish in the river- it was awesome. The money we raise helps with everything from TIC to our efforts on the Warner River (See December's new letter – Page Four, just sayin') and other important projects.

We're you at the last chapter meeting? If not, you missed Jack Noon's presentation on Atlantic Salmon restoration. He's a great story teller and the guy has a memory that rivals an elephant (nearly better than Elephant disks (EMS) from the late 80's – remember those?). This month's meeting will feature Jesse and Rich Tichko with a presentation on Trout Fishing in New Zealand.

More good news: a schedule change at the SPNHF building means that we can get into the building earlier. Details will follow (and Jessie and Rich will still be on at 7:00) but we may have a bit more social time (and hot coffee, snacks, stories, and time to buy raffle tickets) than before.

Hope to see you there!

Alex



## In Search of Newsletter Editor

Tim Pease our current editor is retiring so we are searching for a conservation angler with a way with words and the ability to inform and entertain our members . It's a great gig with a great readership too. Please contact Alex Hicks at [ConcordTU.org](http://ConcordTU.org) and lets us know of your interest. We here at Basil Woods Jr. look forward to meeting and working with you.

## Editors Soapbox

*Tim Pease*

In the two some years I have been writing this column I have learned a few things and one of them is that I am now old school. All the books all, my idols and my version of renown are old and they are not the only ones. Anything I tie right now is an instant classic. It is all I know.

There is a young guy named Rick Strolis who has been building himself a reputation as guide, tyer, and now author. He haunts the Farmington and Housatonic rivers in Connecticut. I think I have met him and I know of several guides and vendors who know him and respect him a great deal. But when I was in Marlboro last week at the show I saw where he tied but never walked across the hall to spend a moment at his bench. Bad on me.

I did however make my way to the book vendor determined to refresh my library and become au courant. I poked and read leaf sheets much to the chagrin of my impatient companions and finally chose a book published just last year, a real update. Alas it is a history of old flies and their makers. I guess new tricks may be more difficult to come by than this old dog thought.

Anyway the book was insightful beyond it contribution to my personal nostalgia. In short the author offered a few pages, some lovely photos and some keen insight into those ladies and gentlemen that created the flies that I grew up and fished with; like

the Dettes, the Darbies, Rube Cross, Lee Wulff, Keith Fulsher, Carrie Stevens, Art Flick in all some 43 different innovators.

I havn't read them all , cant stay awake that long, but one thing did stick out to me that I had not considered before. I like others am a fish tourist traveling hither and yon to search out the ultimate fishing experience. I finally figured out I cannot fish in my remaining years all the hallowed rivers. So of late I have localized my fishing somewhat. It is not that I don't travel; but not so far and I am not adding many new places either. Why do I bring this up?

One of the things I took away from my recent reading was an acute awareness that most if all of the old time innovators ; and as it turns out guys like Rick Strolis too, were gurus on their home rivers and streams. It is the in depth knowledge of their local fisheries that drove their innovation and creativity. They knew the water the fish forage and the insect hatches and knew them through out the seasons. Time spent on the water, the elixir of creativity.

And not all of these waters are as renown as you might think. The Boardman absent Halladay, and maybe Schwiebert also a local at the time would be unkown to most as would Polly Rosebrough's Williamson river in Oregon . Thunder Creek in Wisconsin without the flies, maybe maybe not. These gentlemen made the river and not vice versa. They valued and flaunted their home waters and so should we all.

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## Parson Ponders

*Parson Weems, north woods guide savant, periodically leaves his cabin and campfire to offer a few words and insights that can only come from a dark sky view of Orion's Belt on a clear north country night*

Well years back I finally gave in to the new fangled aluminum snowshoes . A few weeks go I stepped into a pile a downed hemlock bows and got all hung up inthem and, snow, and a puddle a water at the bottom. No snowshoe was gonna save me from that mess. I yanked my leg ,twisted my back, pulled off my boot and stepped in the puddle with my socks on . Took me another fifteen minutes of barin my backside to get the boot and snowshoe back. It were an ugly mile and a half walk back to the cabin.

Stove fixed most everythin ceptin my back and even the old horse linement didn't bring that around. I'm still gimpin around the cabin. Good thing its small or a fella could starve in my situation. Don't want to tell ya bout getting to the privy. Been better the past few weeks but I aint running no trap line soon.

And it been a funny winter all way round. Been warm, little snow but not much rain neither. Lakes and streams look low. Seen a lot of fellas fishing below the dam. And getting some nice ones too. Saw some put back but not all.

Not tellin what happens next. Seen winters like this before and I'm never sure . Could be dry trough spring or we might make it all up with just too much rain. Neither way helps the fishin. Fishin is best with lots of snow and a nice slow melt with some warm spring rains. Them Spring freshets throw everythin off.

Means a heavy vest too. When you don't the water levels, you don't know what the fish are eatin; then you don't know what to bring, so you bring it all. Lost more boxes a flies in spring freshets that you can imagine. Course if the waters low you pack all the stuff and never use it; just lug it. It's a bother!

Course it don't make the sports too happy neither. They arrive every year for the smelt, the Hendrickson, the caddis, the olives, the sulphurs dependin on when they get here. Wrong stuff is here or worse no stuff is here it always my problem. Gotta scare up new ways to keep um happy. Improvisin pond trips is the standard but that means luggin canoes and fishin mostly early and late even paddlin so as they can troll

some. That paddlin is losing its charm as the years go by too.

With the fishin schedule throwed off the eating and drinkin hours changes too. Not a pretty site. These fellas are good drinkers but there not made to cook. Throw em off and the cookin goes by the boards and all they do is drink. That and tie flies cuz they brought the wrong ones. I gotta tell you extended drinkin and tyin flies with no good lights makes for some pretty ugly bugs the next day.

Its a bit self correctin though since hangovers and some bacon grease mean late starts and less paddlin and sometimes after a few days of pondin the sports just need a whole days rest. You'd think it would be best if it rained so as they'd stay in in camp but no rain means olives and then they gotta tie em up. By then I seen coffee grounds better imitate an olive than the stuff that fall off them vices . The wise ones stay in camp and the rest I paddle in the rain so they can cast coffee spec olives that I gotta tie on 7x tip-pets for em to rises they can't tell from the rain drops. No rain please!

Hopefully about the end of June things start straightenin out. We can go the all the usual places on the river they can catch fish from 9 to 5 with flies they brought and we can eat drink and be tucked in by 9:30.

Never thought a mild winter with that El Nino thingy would be such a cause for worry. In the old days we didn't know what it meant and we never knew we had the problem till it was over. So I am not sure whether it a problem now cuz I know about it or cuz I done all this before when I was younger and it hurt less. Maybe that's why progress and age don't work in the same direct even when it looks like they should.

Anyway I'm gonna tie up a few olives as I'm thinkin we will need em and maybe it will make things better . But, I doubt it

*Parson Weems*



*(Continued from page 3)*

Our local Contocook river was long my home river and I often wondered if published words alone could make it a destination fishing site. Had I been a better student of the water and a much better writer it might have been a "contenda". You never know. It was a great home river for me for some 20 years.

Our local streams are what we make of them, haunt them, learn them, enjoy their variation; and work to protect them. Make sure that your communities treat them with the respect they deserve. Protect them from the ravages of development. What is in them may not be what was there in the past, but it is what you will make of it and it can be great. Fish, enjoy and support our local streams and they will repay you in kind.

*Tim Pease*

### **We need your help with NH Trout Unlimited State Council Fundraising Efforts.**

Funds raised for the council help to support conservation efforts including :

- \* Grants to chapters,
- \* Equipment needs for trout-in-the-classroom,
- \* Annual NH Trout Unlimited Kid's Trout Camp.

### **Here is How**

#### **TD Bank Affinity Program**

Are you a TD Bank Customer? Over the past four years, TD bank has donated almost \$4000 to the Council through the TD Bank Affinity Program. The annual TD bank donation is based on the number of checking accounts and the average total balance of the savings accounts that are linked to the TU Council as of May 31 of any given year. By indicating to TD that you'd like them to support TU, they'll count your account in their total. Don't worry, your details are kept private and this program doesn't cost you anything. It's an easy way to support the State TU Council. More details, stop by your local TD Bank or contact the Contocook branch at 603-229-5915.

#### **Amazon Smile**

Your purchases at Amazon.com can help support the TU State Council, They've setup an account so that 0.5% of a purchase made through the on AmazonSmile program will be donated to the council when a purchaser selects the council as their charity of choice.

To purchase on Amazon smile just go the link <http://smile.amazon.com/>. When you get to that page, there should be an option to select your charity in the bottom right hand corner. Type the words Trout Unlimited - NH State Council into the box where it says to select your own charity and hit the search button (Please Note - if you only type in trout unlimited, you will get a couple of hundred selections, so be sure to include the words NH State Council in your search). It should come up with one option which you can then select. From then on it works just like regular amazon. You only need to do it once - after that please remember to shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) so that your purchases count. As with the TD Bank Affinity Program, your details are kept private and this program doesn't cost you anything. It's another easy way to support the State TU Council.

## Fly Tying Classes



Beginner and intermediate classes will be held simultaneously Tuesday evenings at the Passaconaway Club on Garvins Fall Rd. Concord beginning February 16, 2016 through March 15, 2016.

This new format will feature small group, individual, hands on instruction from some of Basil Woods Jr. most experienced tiers. All materials are provided. We are continuing to accept entrants for the Intermediate class. Please Send registration and payment of \$75 to:

Basil W. Woods Chapter TU  
PO Box 330  
Concord NH 03302 – 3302

Questions? e-mail us at: [concordtu@yahoo.com](mailto:concordtu@yahoo.com)

ported the migration of salmon, sturgeon, striped bass and lamprey eels, some to the northernmost reaches of the watershed; a system rich in nutrients and unfluctuatingly cool. Earliest settlers netted the fish, trapped the fur bearing animals and harvested the old growth timber for masts. Overfishing had effectively eliminated the salmon from the Merrimack by 1750.

Provisions to implement fishways to mitigate the impact of dams that powered the industrial revolution in New England were unheeded and unenforced or rolled back in the name of commercial progress stemming any replenishment of anadromous fish in the watershed. Legislative attention in the 1850s, and Supreme Court decisions paved the way for a repair of the fishways and the institution in 1870 of a successful stocking program started from New Brunswick stock. This effort championed by Commissioner Elliot Hodge saw the return of mature Atlantic Salmon into the upper reaches of the water shed.

This success was short lived. Citizens took salmon at their leisure and when they were though decimating the population the log drives of 1880 and beyond completed the wasting of the old growth forest warming the water straightening the streambeds and scoring the reds that made the earlier revival possible. As a footnote the earliest efforts to effectively police the 1870 restocking of Salmon in NH grew in time to become the NHF&G that so tirelessly works to manage all of NH waters today.

Now the salmon are gone and we know from the recent but now defunct endeavor to reestablish Atlantic Salmon how complex the process is and how daunting the dream of success has become. We thank Jack for his efforts to show us the history. His love for the fishery shines through every word he utters. Let us hope that his research will help us move beyond the failures of the past to a successful future restoration of our once bountiful watershed.

### Newsletter Information

*Troutlines* is published September through May. Chapter members who have given TU national their e-mail address will receive an e-mail notice from us through the TU national server that the latest newsletter is online at our chapter website. Paper copies are sent to members who don't have an e-mail address listed with TU national.

We periodically get returned emails announcing the newsletter is available on line. Almost always this happens because your e-mail address has changed. Please log onto the TU national website and update your email address so we can stay in touch. Only you can do it.

If you would prefer to receive paper copies of *Troutlines* rather than electronic copies, drop us a line to either our e-mail or mailing address. If you now receive a paper copy and would prefer to read it online, drop us a note and update your membership information with TU national.

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### Calendar

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|--------------------------|---|
| <b>February 18, 2016</b> | <b>Chapter Meeting</b><br><b>6:00 PM Social/Fly Tie</b><br><b>7PM Program</b> |
| <b>March 12, 2016</b>    | <b>Conservation Banquet</b>   |
| <b>April 16</b>          | <b>Youth Fishing Day</b>  |

*All chapter meetings start at*  
*6:00 PM, Social and Flytying*  
*7 PM Program*  
*At the Society for the*  
*Protection of New Hampshire Forests,*  
*54 Portsmouth Street, Concord*  
*unless posted otherwise*